

Applicant has also added claims 36-40 which are supported by the subject application as originally filed. In addition, Applicant has amended the paragraph beginning on line 2 of page 26 to correct a typographical error. Appended hereto is a “Version With Markings to Show Changes Made”.

II. Title

Applicant has amended the Title to read “METHODS FOR ALIGNING AN ANTENNA WITH A SATELLITE”.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-3 and 19-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In particular, the Examiner stated that “[t]he phrases: ‘removably attaching’ (claim 1, line 2); ‘removably attaching’ claim 3, lines 1 and 2); ‘removably attaching’ (claim 19, line 3), etc., [are] unclear and confusing in that it is not known whether applicants are referring as to ‘removably’ or ‘attaching.’” Applicant respectfully disagrees. However, to facilitate passage to allowance of the subject application at an early date, Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, and 19 to delete “removably”. Thus, Applicant submits that such language encompasses both permanently attaching a compass and attaching a compass that may be removed from the rear of the antenna. Accordingly, removal of this rejection is requested.

The Official Action further provided that “[t]he independent claims 1 and 19 called for a method for alignment [of] an antenna with a satellite but however in the claims there is no step associated with the method for aligning. It is also not clear whether the azimuth reading is base [sic-based] on the orientation aligning position of the satellite and the antenna, i.e., in the instant case, there is no step involving the aligning of the antenna and the satellite.” Applicant has

amended claims 1 and 19 to recite that the predetermined azimuth setting is associated with the satellite. Accordingly, removal of this rejection is requested.

The Official Action further provides that “[t]he limitation ‘detaching’ claim 2, line 1) is not known of how the cited detaching step is operatively associated with the claimed method for aligning.” Applicant has amended claim 2 to clarify that the detaching action takes place after the moving action. Claim 2 is clear on its face and fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, removal of this rejection is requested.

IV. The Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, and 19-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,977,922 to Hemmingsen II (“Hemmingsen”). Applicant submits that for a reference to anticipate a claim, the “identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the … claim.” Manual of Patent Examining Procedure § 2131 (citations omitted).

Claim 1 recites that the compass is attached to a rear portion of the antenna. In Hemmingsen, the compass 42 is attached to a special bracket that is suspended from the antenna support arm 20 which protrudes forwardly from the front of the antenna dish 24. Hemmingsen provides:

The alignment device of this invention is operatively removably secured to the amplifier support arm and includes a clinometer means for indicating the angle of inclination of the **support arm** with respect to the horizontal.

Column 2, lines 4-9 (emphasis added). See also Figures 2, 3, and 6 of Hemmingsen. Thus, the mounting bracket arrangement of Hemmingsen serves a dual purpose (i.e., supports the compass and functions as a device for indicating the angle of the **support arm** with respect to the horizon). The disadvantages of such arrangement was discussed on page 4, line 20 – page 5, line 5 of the subject application as originally filed. Thus, Hemmingsen fails to teach attaching a

compass to a rear portion of the antenna as recited in claims 1 and 19. Accordingly, Hemmingsen cannot anticipate the subject matters of claims 1 and 19 or the claims that depend therefrom.

V. The Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hemmingsen. In particular, the Official Action provides “Hemmingsen II discloses the claimed invention except for the step of attaching of a digital compass to the rear of the antenna. Applicant submits that the Examiner correctly notes that Hemmingsen fails to disclose the action of attaching a digital compass to the **rear** of the antenna. Furthermore, as was discussed above, the bracket disclosed in Hemmingsen is specifically designed to be suspended from the **support arm** to function as an inclinometer to indicate the angle of the **support arm** with respect to the horizontal. Therefore, Hemmingsen fails to disclose attaching any type of compass to a rear portion of antenna and teaches away from that arrangement. Accordingly, Applicant submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established with respect to claim 3.

VI. Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant received copies of PTO Forms 1449 that were initialed by the Examiner. However, the PTO Form 1449 that cited the “Photograph of antenna and mounting bracket believed to have been manufactured by Channel Master Company and made publicly available more than one year prior to the filing date of the subject application” was not initialed as having been considered by the Examiner. Confirmation that such art was considered by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

Also enclosed is a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449.

A copy of each of the references cited in the enclosed PTO Form 1449 is enclosed. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), Applicant is herewith enclosing a check in the amount of \$180 for consideration of the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. The PTO is also hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 11-1110 for any fee deficiencies associated therewith. Consideration of the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully requested.

VII. Approval of Drawing Amendments

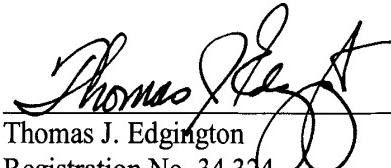
On June 22, 2001, Applicant filed a Letter To Draftsperson and a Preliminary Amendment requesting permission to amend Figure 1. The Official Action fails to indicate whether the proposed drawing correction was approved by the Examiner. Approval of such proposed drawing correction is solicited.

VIII. Conclusion

Applicant submits that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejections stated in the Official Action and passage to allowance of all the pending claims at an early date are earnestly solicited. If, however, the Examiner determines that there are any remaining issues to be addressed prior to issuing such an allowance, he is invited to

telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below so that such issues may be expeditiously addressed.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

In The Title

Please amend the Title to read as follows:

[ANTENNA INSTALLATION] METHODS FOR ALIGNING AN ANTENNA WITH A SATELLITE

In the Specification

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 2 of the subject application as follows:

--The above-described mounting bracket embodiment is particularly useful for mounting and orienting an antenna along a plurality of axes. Those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the mast support member 190 described above could be provided in a variety of other configurations that are adapted to attach various other objects to the mounting bracket. Those of ordinary skill in the art will further appreciate that for applications that require the mounting bracket to be exposed to the elements, the various fasteners employed in the mounting bracket may be fabricated from corrosion resistant material such as stainless steel or the like. Furthermore, the fasteners employed in the mounting bracket 100 may comprise the same size of screw or bolt (not necessarily the same length) such that a single wrench may be employed by the installer to mount the bracket and make all of the adjustments thereto. Also, if desired, to protect the mounting bracket 100 from the elements and establish a more aesthetically pleasing appearance, a shroud 400 made from a suitable material may be placed around the bracket. See Figure 21. Shroud 400 may be fabricated from flexible plastic or [rig] rigid plastic and may be

one or more parts that are fastened together around the mounting bracket 100 by appropriate fasteners, such as screws, etc.--

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1- 3 and 19 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for aligning an antenna with a satellite, said method comprising:

[removably] attaching a compass to a rear portion of the antenna;
moving the antenna to a position wherein the compass displays a reading that corresponds to a predetermined azimuth reading associated with the satellite; and
retaining the antenna in said position.
2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising detaching the compass from the rear portion of the antenna, after said moving.
3. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said [removably] attaching a compass comprises [removably] attaching a digital compass to the rear portion of the antenna.
19. (Amended) A method for aligning an antenna with a satellite, said method comprising:

mounting an adjustable mounting bracket to a structure;
supporting the antenna in the mounting bracket;
[removably] attaching a compass to a rear portion of the antenna;

pivoting a portion of the mounting bracket until the antenna is in a position wherein the compass displays a reading that corresponds to a predetermined azimuth reading associated with the satellite; and

locking the portion of the mounting bracket to prevent further movement thereof.